NOTES ON "R73-COR" (Correspondence) PLH 12/1/73

(1-6) I have no reason to believe that these were ever withheld; they may just have been in unscreened files. I asked for them earlier this year (based on their listings in IE3, the mail log (R73-M.R.2)) and got them routinely.
I have asked for the attachments to (1) and (2); so far they look totally routine to me.
(5-6): Apparently everyone routinely got top secret clearance. I have some records referring to the FBI investigation of Redlich and the Commission's concern about him (and public reaction to him).

(7) Presumably withheld on general principles since it deals with Pres. Prot.
The referenced ltr of Jan 6 is CD 80. I was interested in it earlier because it deals with the SS furnishing the WC only the most important of the reports of the investigation, not all SS control numbers.
Also deals with windshield issue.

(8) Presumably withheld because of details on p. 4 re access to Mexican immigration records. Looks routine, but perhaps should compare with rumors on what Customs had on Oswald. (As I recall there are separate letters dealing with some allegations that were prominent in the press.)
Page 6, which is illegible, is a totally routine 'thank you."

(9) Routine; thanks for 2 memos dated 1/21; draft questions for USSR govt.; refers to meeting held Jan 14, and indicates another will be held.

(10) Dillon reluctant to get the WC too involved in SS matters (Prot. Pres.)
The cover slip is presumably between two Warren aides at the Court.
There is a lot of correspondence later on how to deal with Dillon's position. Specifically, items COR.18, 20, 23; IM. 6, and maybe more.

(11) This is obviously a CIA document - they declassified it, by the same ltr of 12/22/72 that covered several CD's - but the source is not otherwise indicated.
Note deletion, apparently a named source.
I'm sure I've heard of Diaz Verson in other documents, but don't recall where.
The FBI reports referred to should be locatable.
Whoops - maybe this is not a CIA document, but an internal Commission memo; in any case, odd that the writer is not indicated.

(12) Fairly routine, except for the impression that the CIA was not giving the WC something relevant - JLR noticed a ref. to "Appendix B" in CD 321; it was sent over as CD 361.

(13) Refers to gun mentioned at CD 329.44; wants more info.
CD 329.44 was never withheld. This looks totally routine.

(14) Another CIA document not clearly identified as to source.
Deletions not particularly provocative. No special interest in Reggab.

(15) Nothing special; summary of Soviet press coverage. I looked at but did not copy the news items themselves, which are summarized in this memo. I have detailed notes and a list of what I didn't get on tape.

(16) Completely routine thank-you ltr for CD 361 (Cf. #12 supra)

(17) Asks CIA for circumstances of photo, and identity of man; seems routine (altho a sensitive subject); hardly worth withholding in the first place.

(18) Quite interesting. Cf. COR.10 supra.
Wonder if this was drafted by Warren personally? I would guess so; revealing: no interest in the details of the work of any of the agencies of the Govt; such things must be classified; doesn't even want to know! That's the way he sounded at the first of the executive sessions too.

(19) Totally routine thank-you for info requested in (13) supra; the CIA ltr was apparently not given a CD number until much later; it is CD 1182.

(20) Cf. item 18. Stern fixed up Warren's draft - presumably he did a lot of writing for Warren when he was his clerk at the Supreme Court. Willens approved it but it was not sent.
Apparently I.M.6 goes with this.
Evidently handling this sensitive SS matter was the subject of considerable discussion, or at least uncertainty - unusual to have so many copies of the same letter drafted.
I only got 3 pp. for COR.20; I have asked if there is more.

(21) Totally routine thank-you for CD 384.

(22) This report doesn't say why these details of Marina's dealings with Martin and Thorne in the presence of Gopadze (if any) were of interest.
I don't know why myself.
P. 2 - what ever happened to the idea of cremating Oswald? I don't recall hearing of it before.
Interesting reading. PDS might be interested?

(23) Cf. COR.20. Looks like it has been strengthened a bit; maybe after discussion by the WC. Funny last sentence - making the life of the President more secure was hardly their only purpose in checking SS procedures and liason; they also were looking to fix blame in this case, if appropriate.

(24) I have the referenced ltr of 2/12 (CIA.37); it is not as specific as Slawson's draft, which I guess was not sent.

(25) Completely routine 'thank-you' for CD 448, Reggab.
I guess if the CD was withheld the cover letter was originally withheld too.
Routine and understandable but the letter itself is still not withholdable.

(26) Interesting: info. from Nosenko.
Some FBI info on Nosenko is in CD 651; I was shown p. 2 of the synopsis by mistake in 1966.
I have CIA to State, 2/18:(CIA.29)
The file number, (s)-105-82555, doesn't look familiar!
There are only a few cases I know of of direct CIA-FBI correspondence, with just copies to the WC. The U-2 matter (CD 931) is another. Odd?
Note date of JD ltr cited as authority to declassify - 8/17/66. I guess that there was no specific reference to this item; that must have been the best authority Johnson (mmj) could think of offhand.

(27) Good stuff. Questions raised by State Dept. files.
I think there was a ltr sent, and a CIA reply, with this title; can't find them offhand. This must have been a draft.
P. 4 - rare to find the staff (this is presumably WDS) thinking that deviously and well. Some of them would have made good critics with a little help.

(28) Routine-sensitive; relates to CD 692, 10/10 telegram, and such; compare previously-available correspondence in GA-1-CIA file.
Guessing, this was withheld because of the ref. to the 10/10 telegram.

(29) Routine, presidential-protection sensitive matter.
Refers to conference with CIA on March 12.
I have seen nearly identical ltrs to other agencies, long ago.

(30) Routine cover ltr and list for CD's 530-557, DeM.
Don't see why 2nd Wood memo of 2/28 was given CD 734, but it was!
I have the referenced ltr of 2/12 (#462.2)
Hardly worth withholding - must have been because of ref. to CIA-FBI liason?

(31) Routine slip, Helms to JLR, plus 14-page CIA roundup of rumors about Oswald, that is, rumors in the press.
Not much interest in the substance, but the extent and nature of bias in the compilation is striking. If this is the sort of summarizing that gets to

our president, no wonder he has such a funny idea of what the press is about. Really an amazing amount of editorializing - and bad stuff, too.

Esp. interesting- p. 13, para. 43 - the third "minor rumor" - that Oswald was and FBI or CIA agent. Blaming Pauline Bates and Mama Oswald for the story!

What was the purpose of this CIA roundup? Internal use? Leaks?

(32) Stern's questions for the SS. Valuable.

Compare his questions for the FBI, ltr of 3/26. Similar phrasing of his request for a 'reasoned response' not just a yes-or-no answer.

I don't recall seeing these questions before. Was this letter sent?

Cf. COR.39 and CE 1027, infra.

It is quite possible that the SS didn't want to answer some of those questions in detail, at least not in writing.

Important (for me) to consider this correspondence in parallel with Stern's requests to the FBI.

(33) Reasonably routine ltr to CIA, re DeM. (Cf. COR.30 supra)

Did the CIA actually submit a report on DeM? Probably CD 1012.

(34) Fairly routine; of course we don't know what's in the deleted last paragraph.

Note direct Stern-Rocca correspondence. Unusual, prob. not significant.

Recall Stern was interested in FBI/CIA data processing methods.

(35) Reggab; refers to COR.25 and CD 448.

Sensitive source may have been somebody reading Reggab's mail, either in Morocco or Germany. Otherwise not interesting to me.

(36) 1-p. Rocca-to-Stern ltr, w/att 3 pp. CIA memo on plans of British and French publishers to publish Buchanan articles.

Funny that this would be directed to Stern; I don't see any reason for "direct interest" by him.

The deletion, p. 2, appears to be background on Buchanan.

Interesting reading, but was the CIA supposed to be following up stuff like this? Note fairly wide dissemination - the AG, Hoover, etc.

(37) Too bad this is barely legible.

First para. refers to visit by WC representatives to Mexico City from April 8 through April 15.

The "Mr. Scott (deleted)" who was particularly helpful might be the same as "Winfield Scott" apparently located at "AMEMB Mexico City" who got a copy of the photo (?) from the ONI; see M.R.1C below. One could check the official records and see if Scott was there under some official cover.

This letter also refers to discussions with the FBI and CIA in Mexico re "D"(Alvarado), and asks for a report from the CIA.

(38) Odio; JLR requests interview of McChann.

Reply is CE 2943. I have list of all the Odio file. None withheld.

Item asked for in last paragraph, reaction of Cuban exile community to the assassination, is CD 853, still all withheld.

(39) Stern's questions to the SS.

Funny that this would be withheld; the answers (including the questions) are CE 1027. I checked fairly carefully and found only a couple of changes in the questions: In #3, 'presented' was changed to 'represented', 'exposed' in 'exposed public function' was dropped;in #4d, "or other possible" changed to "that are possible." These look like changes made when the questions were dictated for the memo giving the reply; quite innocent.

The cover ltr refers to COR.32, so I guess that was sent.

The cover ltr has the same date as the reply (4/22); I would guess that the questions were discussed and submitted informally first.

(40) Material on Minutemen, forwarded by Secret Service.
Lots, maybe all, of it is from Alcohol & Tobacco Tax Division.
Pp. 1-4 are routing slips which don't really explain this - it may be the A&TT file on the Minutemen.

It may represent 'the' WC investigation of the Minutemen. As I recall, Cong. Gonzales wrote to them about Minutemen threats and the WC said in their reply that it would be looked into. (I don't have that correspondence.)

Despite Willen's suggestion to Griffin (p. 1) this was never given a CD number.

P. 2 (omitted) is the original of p. 3, on letterhead paper (cover ltr).

P. 5 - Summary re Donnell Whittier & L. R. Miller, robbery of National Guard Armory, Terrell, Texas, Nov. 18, 1963. Doesn't say there is any Minuteman link.

PP. 6-20: re Valmore Forgett, possible Minuteman.

P. 6: cover ltr; p. 7-11; closing report

P. 12-20: reports re Rich Bruenich, arson/mischief at Cherry Hill Rifle Range, N.J., Dec. 1962, and possession of bombs, same place, Oct. 5, 1963. (Report is 10/31/63)

Pp. 21-31: investigation based on ad placed by Alcohol & Tax people soliciting illegal (restorable) machine guns; 4 replies investigated.

Minuteman link not obvious. Interesting entrapment case, perhaps.

P. 30 - funny - "Mr. Locke said that he was going to forget about firearms and concentrate on his trombone playing." (in the Aiken, S.C. Municipal Band.)

Pp. 32-46: Re Richard Lauchli, a famous Minuteman name.

Pp. 32-42: Sep. 24-Dec. 13, 1963; includes an attempt (initiated 10/1/63) to re-establish informant contact. Interesting reading.

Duplicates: (not exact, but no additional information) pp. 41=39=37; 42=40=38=36

Pp. 43-46: Lauchli matter, Nov. 8-22 1961.

(Pp. 44-45 were in the wrong order when received; changed)

Pp. 47-48: cover ltr and report of 3/31/64 on illegal gun sale at gun show in Kansas; the only Minuteman link is a tenuous rumor.

Pp. 49-51: cover ltr and report of 2/25/64 re reported firearms act violations by Kansas City Minutemen.

(41) Request, drafted by Liebeler, for info on mind conditioning and brainwashing. Reply is COR.48 below.

Liebeler really did have a psychological approach - talks of the Soviets maybe reinforcing Oswald's hostility to authority, etc.

(42) Slawson asking for Comments on stuff received from the Russians; nothing special.

(43) Slawson on the Helsinki problem.
Doesn't mention evidence that LHO left London on 10/10/59; otherwise, good questions.

(44) Drafted by Goldberg. Re SS White & House Detail history.

The reply is CE 1029. I haven't compared it with the letter, but it is odd if the ltr was really withheld.

The ltr is 1 p., the cover slip by Willens indicates that the SS did not want this info published and would probably say so in their ltr; they didnt.

(45) Presumably withheld because of description of the Gibsons as of 'very limited means."

The ltr just wants Gibson to sign her deposition. Seems routine.

Unusual, but probably not significant, that the ltr is in Jenner's name (not Rankin's).

(46) I got only the 2-page cover ltr, listing the remaining contents.
As far as I can tell this is a relatively ordinary 'nut' case. I didn't see any special reason for withholding, or any real connection with the assassination.
I do have some notes on tape about this item.

(47) I asked for but didn't get the cover slip; I got the next 2 pp and (unintended) the next page, xx a very poor copy of the USN&W article (June 8, 1964, p. 38) reporting Sassa's comments.

Looks like nothing special; presumably withheld because Sassa told the reporter (Toelstrup) that his statement would not be made public.

(Apparently T's statement is now available; I would have to check my notes on xxx exactly what the remaining 8 pages are.)

(48) Consists of a 1 p. ltr in response to COR.41; a 2-p. list of the 24 items (#1 being deleted); then a 14-page article (#3).

Marion Johnson has written on p. 1 of the 2-p. list "Items 2-24 are available if wanted." I think I saw them in Liebeler's xxxxxx office files. I wasn't impressed, except by the fact that the CIA had gotten and given to the WC some original carbons of papers ostensibly prepared for xxxxx scholarly journals. (I would have to check my taped notes for confirmation and details.)

I don't xxx know why I got article #2 - maybe it was withheld until now, but I would assume that the deleted and unavailable item #1 was the report referred to as 'classified' in the cover letter.

The article (#2) apparently had the 'For Official Use Only' restriction on the original of this nicely printed paper, which is pp. 51-64 of something - maybe a CIA house journal?

The article itself, Hypnosis in Interrogation, is interesting but xx irrelevant.

(49) I don't have the referenced 6/29 State ltr. The 4/6 CIA memo is CD 708, still withheld; compare the sanitized version, CD 1479B=CE2762.

The CIA reply is CD 1273, 7/22/64, released 1970. Slawson met on 7/9 (3 days after xxxx the date of COR.49) with the CIA.

The problem Slawson was so concerned with was Marina's being allowed to leave.

Don't see much reason for withholding all this in the first place.

Interesting that Slawson did take it seriously.

xxx (50-51) Re Kara-patnitsky, possibly in the Moscow hospital with Oswald. (51) was probably withheld because of the SS reference to its two agents in Europe (who were committed to Jackie's visit and thus couldn't get to K. right away.)

(52) A general request for the xxx CIA to approve or object to the publication of various items; the xxxx attached list is not here.

(52A) Declines to approve publication of CD 1216, which is now released.

The published Kostikov memo is CE 2764.

(53) Asks to publish CD 1216; reply is COR.52A; routine request.

(54) Slawson wanted to publish CD 944, now released. Routine ltr.

(54A) Presumably this info., for which Slawson wanted citeable memos, had xx been given to him informally or in bigger memos. Looks like nothing special.

(54B) Re Duran being a Commie, and (as of Sept 1) being hidden; evidently not published.

(55) Asking if it xx is okay to publish CD's 347 and 1084 with Alvarado called "D". Routine (xx but sensitive matter).

(55A) 1 p. ltr approving publication of an unspecified 7/23 memo. Was it CD 1287? That memo (as opposed to the affidavit) is still withheld. Could be another memo with the same date.

Perhaps Rankin's ltr asking permission will clarify this; it is COR.59, which for some reason I didn't get.

Also, okay given to publish 7/1 memo; it is CE 2677.

Publication of 5/6 ltr refused; presumably CD 902. Amended letter x enclosed; that may be what is CE 1356, altho that bears the original date. Admittedly a CE with an Oct. 13 date (after the WR was out) would have been awkward.

Could have also referred to CD 928, xxxx still withheld, re Setyaiev; no such memo published. Worth checking out. P. 2 is routing slip, Eide to AG; JLR had left it.

(56-59) (5 pp) Were not received, for so-far unknown reasons. On order.